the forest cover of the country. One of the options of financing suggested by the Task Force relate to linking of the afforestation programme with Food for Work Scheme.

(d) The report has not been processed so far.

Linking Tiger Reserves to WWF

655. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to link five tiger reserves and seven wildlife sanctuaries, alongwith forests, in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, through the World Wildlife Fund for nature (WWF);

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the project is likely to take shape?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Central Government has declared the following Tiger Reserves in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger:

(i) Kanha Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh.

(ii) Panna Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

(iii) Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

(iv) Bandavgarh Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

(v) Satpura Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

(vi) Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra

(vii) Melghat Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra

(viii) Tadoba-Andheri Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra

(ix) Indravati Tiger Reserve, Chhattisgarh.

All these Tiger Reserves form a network of Protected Areas, by and large, inter-linking the improtant tiger habitats. WWF India has conceptualised a project for mustering peoples' support for Wildlife

conservation in the belt forming part of the tiger habitat mentioned above.

Environmental Clearance for Development Projects

656. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number, location and details of development projects pending with Government for environmental clearance, State-wise;

(b) the estimated cost and physical benefits;

(c) whether any radical changes are needed in the Central Legislation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken in this regard; and

(f) by when those projects would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) A total of 110 development projects in the sectors of Industry, Mining, River Valley, Thermal Power and Infrastructure are awaiting environmental clearance as on 15th November, 2001. A state-wise list of these projects indicating their location, estimated cost and benefits is given in the Annexure [*See* Appendix 194, Annexure No. 8]

(c) to (e) As per the provisions of Impact Assessment Notification of January, 1994 and its amendments, environmental clearance is mandatory for 30 categories of development projects. Presently, there is no proposal regarding radical changes in Central Legislation for appraisal of development projects.

(f) Decision on environmental clearance of development projects is usually taken within 90 days of receipt of complete information.

Deaths due to pollution

†657. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.